tax on total income for a financial year is nil, may furnish a declaration in Form 15H for no deduction of tax at source. Other depositors are eligible for claiming no deduction of tax at source on furnishing a declaration in Form 15G, subject to other prescribed conditions. Moreover, any depositor may obtain a certificate for no deduction or lower deduction of tax at source under Section 197(1) of the Income Tax Act from his assessing officer, provided the specified conditions are fulfilled.

There is no change in the basic features of scheme as it continues to provide all the slated benefits, including higher return to depositors.

(d) No such proposal is presently under consideration.

Slow down for economy

104. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a slow down in the economy is becoming more and more visible and it is becoming clear that the country might not achieve the growth rate of over 8 percent which has been achieved in the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) No Sir. There are no indications of slowdown in the economy in 2006-07. The industry and services sectors are expected to maintain the high growth momentum of the recent years.

Government's initiatives with regard to enlarging of infrastructure facilities, enabling environment for investment, credit support and its thrust on rural employment, education and health etc. are expected to provide the required momentum for sustained high growth of the economy.

Release of funds under Accelerated Power Development Reforms Programme in Orissa

105. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Orissa has requested for release

of Rs. 265 crore incentive grant from the Centre under Accelerated Power Development Reforms Programme (APDRP) for loss/reduction achieved in power distribution;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating status of the proposal; and

(c) what is the time-frame within which the above amount would be released to the State, if not, already done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) An incentive claim was filed by the Government of Orissa for Rs. 265 crore. Since the distribution of power in Orissa has been privatised, the incentive claim in respect of the loss reduction in the distribution sector is not permissible under the guidelines of APDRP.

Setting up of Sixth Pay Commission

106. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to set up the Sixth Pay Commission to cover the Central Government and State Governments employees;

(b) while setting up the said Commission, will Government take into account the fact that the recommendations of earlier Commission on reduction of surplus staff has not been implemented by Government and provide for effective reduction of surplus staff working in Government;

(c) whether State Governments have been taken into confidence in regard to financial implications; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, particularly how the additional financial burden will be met with?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Sixth Pay Commission being set up by the Central Government will not cover State Government employees.

(b) The Commission would also be expected to make recommendations that would promote efficiency in the working of the Government.

(c) The State Governments have been consulted in the matter.